THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However is likely to be completed during 2006-07.

(c) No, Sir.

Tender for purchase of cranes

†2159. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that tender documents for the purchase of advanced 'Gottwald' and 'Cowans Shildon' in Railways were given to foreign companies on 8th January, 1996, which were singed by 19 Railway officers;

(b) if so, the details of the cranes, their manufacturing company, time of their purchase and amount spent on their purchase respectively;

(c) whether it is also a fact that as far as quality of the cranes with regard to speed, efficiency and other merits is concerned, this was not as per stipulation;

(d) if so, the types of shortcomings found in them;

(e) the persons responsible for the same; and

(f) the action taken against such persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) However, Indian Railways had placed two orders for procurement of 140 Tonne Accident Relief Crane against a tender opened in February, 1996. One order for 8 cranes was placed on M/s Mannesman Gottald, Germany with total Free on Board (FOB) value as Deutsche Marks 24,905,184.20 and other order for 4 cranes was placed on M/s Rolls-Royce Power Engineering Plc., U.K. (erstwhile M/s Cowans Sheldon Ltd.) with total FOB value as UK Pound Sterling 5,423,442. The total landed cost of these 12 cranes was Rs. 150 crore approximately.

(c) No, Sir. The cranes conform to the contractual specifications.

(d) to (f) Do not arise.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.